

HOUSE No. 4160

Section 86 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2008 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund and serial bond requirements and for certain permanent improvements (see House, No. 4141), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Attachment F of House, No. 4156). July 12, 2007.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS TASK FORCE IN THE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith establish an electronic
3 health records task force in the Office of Health and Human Serv-
4 ices, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, nec-
5 essary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary,
2 the executive office of health and human services shall establish
3 an electronic health records system task force to provide a struc-
4 ture that enables the state to act in a leadership role in the devel-
5 opment of state and federal standards for, and in the
6 implementation and use of, an electronic health records system for
7 children in foster care, individuals and dependents enrolled in the
8 MassHealth and SCHIP programs, and individuals and dependents
9 enrolled in Commonwealth care or safety net care programs.
10 (b) The task force shall consist of not more than 9 members,
11 appointed by the secretary of health and human services, who
12 shall represent entities with expertise in developing or imple-
13 menting electronic health records including, but not limited to, the

14 United States Veterans Administration facilities in the Common-
15 wealth, multi-facility hospital systems in the Commonwealth, the
16 University of Massachusetts medical school, the e-Rx Collabora-
17 tive, MA-SHARE, the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, the
18 Massachusetts e-Health Collaborative, and MassPro, the Com-
19 monwealth's federally designated Quality Improvement Organiza-
20 tion. The chief information officer for the executive office of
21 health and human services shall serve as coordinator of the task
22 force. The task force shall also consist of 2 members of the senate
23 to be appointed by the president of the senate and 1 member of the
24 senate to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate, 2
25 members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the
26 speaker of the house and 1 member of the house of representatives
27 to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representa-
28 tives, the commissioner of insurance, the commissioner of med-
29 ical assistance, the commissioner of social services, the
30 commissioner of health care finance and policy, the executive
31 director of the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety, and the
32 executive director of the Commonwealth connector shall serve as
33 ex officio, nonvoting members of the task force.

34 (c) The task force shall:—

35 (1) develop an electronic health records system that provides
36 linkages between multiple settings including, but not limited to,
37 the MassHealth and SCHIP programs, programs administered by
38 the commonwealth connector and programs serving children in
39 foster care, that utilize health records and that is consistent with
40 requirements for community health records and electronic pre-
41 scribing;

42 (2) evaluate the economic model and the anticipated benefits of
43 electronic health records; and

44 (3) provide quarterly updates to the governor and the chairs of
45 the house and senate committees on ways and means and the
46 chairs of the joint committee on health care financing regarding
47 progress in the development of national standards and the work of
48 the task force.